Replies to letter$_s$ received from M. Ps.

391. SHRl O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRTMB MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the letters written by the M.Ps to the Minister of State for Defence ar$_e$ neither being acknowledged nor replied inspite of repeated reminders;

(b) if so. the reasons therefor and what steps does the Prime Minister propose to 'take to ensure that the replies to the letters of the M. Ps. are not »n!y replied promptly but spiritedly by the Minister of State;

(c) whether letters written to the i Prime Minister and the Minister of ! State for Defence, if at all replied,

are replied by the officials and not by the Minister; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what concrete steps does the Prime Minister propose to take to ensure that tlie replies are sent under the signatures of the Minister of State only and if not, the rtasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) As per the laid down procedure, letters addressed by Member$_s$ of Parliament are replied to as soon as possible. If the information sought is not readily available, such letters are acknowledged | pending a complete reply, because occasionally the collection of information from lower formations causes a slight delay.

(c) and (d) Although the Ministers nddres3cd norrm.Hv endeavour to reply personally to such letters. the laid doara procedure permits a reply being sent from official levels. While hitherto the leva prescribed was at least that of a Joint Secre'ary, henceforth the level of s»ch reply would be that of Secretary.

Setting up of National Security Coiincil

392. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be (pleased to state:

(a) whelher Government have taken any further steps for setting up ot the National Security Council as assured during the Budget Session in the Rajya Sabha; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (jb) The question of restructuring the National Security Council is under consideration of the Government.

Diversification in defence production

393. SHSIMATT CHANDRIKA AB HINANDAN JATN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the Defence Public Sector Undertakings Sales during 1993-94 were made to non-defence customers:

(b) whether it is a fact that the motivation for diversification in defence production units had not emerged from any down sizing of defence production:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the Tierfornrance of Defence Research and Development Organisation[1] (DRDO) in the last three years in production of defence equipment to meet al] requirements of the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) During the year 1993-94 about fifty percent of the total sales of defence public sector undertakings were to non-defence customers.

(b) and (c) The defence production units undertake diversification so as to raise turnover and productivity by utilising th$_{;?}$ spareable capacities and skills

after meeting the requirements of de fence forces. The value of production for defence by the detente POUs has
also been steadily increasing.

(d) DRDO is primarily engaged in design and development of equipment i for the armed forces. A wide range of such items ha$_s$ been productionised by \ the defence production units.

Use of IAF aircraft by Minister of State

394. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER, be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item ap-paaring in the print media of 4th July, 1994 about the misuse of IAFs aircraft by the Minister of State for Defence to Jammu;

(b) if so how many persons 'ravelled in that aircraft and what are the details thereof;

(c) what was the purpose for the Minister to travel to Jammu on that av; and '

;d) the steps taken to check the ;
misuse of TAF's aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Government have
Seen the news item.

(b) Raksha Rajya Mantri was accom-panied by three Governmen: servants of ither Ministries who were on duty and four non-officials. Full payment of Jure in respect of the non-officials has already been received, at tile prescribed rates.

(c) RKM had undertaken the visit for urgent and important discussions! with the GOC-in-C, Northern Command, GOC 16 Corps and other senior Army nersonnel regarding Army assistance to b civil att'horities in Doda.

(d) As per Ministry of Defer*ce OM.* No. F. 7(6)/80/D (Air. II) d&ted 6-1-81, in case of non-entMed personnel travelling with trie RRM, recoveries will be made at the rate of normal commercial air-fare, if the two Stations are connected by regular commercial airlines and- in, other cases, *c.x:* the basis. of rates per passenger per kilometre worked out by the Dire" orate of Accounts, Air HQrs. by taking into account the prescribed recovery rates. Payment at the prescribed rates under the Rules has been fully received. theere has been no misuse of the aircrat .

Outlets for products from Onriiiaflce factories

395. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER bc pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the products of the Ordnance factories are -imposed[1] to be made available m the and if so. the names:of the products:

(b) what was the export \ of Ord nance factories in 1992. 1993 ando 1994 Mid the names of countries import Indian Ordnance items; and

(c) what is the value of goods d for civilian use in 1992. 1993and So far in 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALL IKARJUN): (a) With a view to utilising production capacities in ordinance facto ries (after fully meeting the requirements of the defence forces) and thereby raising their productivity and lowering costs, the Governments has been promoting their diversification to customers other than, the defence forces. The products So sold in clude arms and ammunition, -.err.s etc. for para mditary and police forces and

a
wide range of castings, forcings, chemicals, commercial explosives etc. for other civilian customers.